

September 2017

United Church in University Place Newsletter

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

A United Church of Christ, a United Methodist Church &
an LGBTQIA welcoming Congregation

UCUP Members Have Big Hearts

Sunday, August 14th UCUP members and families blessed and sent forward to Family Housing Network (FHN) child and youth backpacks and school supplies.

The children's time discussed the intangibles of Love, Confidence, Intelligence/school readiness that parents, grandparents, friends, teachers intend for those packs to hold and carry.

Thank you to all who blessed these gifts and made donations and continue to participate in such generous spirit.

Judy Thierry
on behalf of Peace and Justice



Choir Rehearsals Resume Sept. 7th

Our wonderful, talented chancel choir will return to Sunday worship on September 17th. And look forward to welcoming any new folks who might be interested in joining us.

Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 9p.m. under the direction of our widely acclaimed Music Director, Jeff Andersen.



Family Housing Network
Hosting Guests from Sept 30—Oct 7

Homecoming Sunday & Potluck September 17th

Join us in worship for Homecoming Sunday where we will welcome our choir back after the summer break, celebrate our kids in worship, and join in a shared potluck meal after worship. Please bring a food item to share that day. If your last name begins with the letter A-F bring salad or side dish; G-R bring a main dish; S-Z bring a dessert. If you are able to help with set-up or with clean-up please let Pastor Cathy know.

My Sister's Pantry Fundraiser

The date chosen for our event is Thursday, September 28th at 6:30pm.



We would love to have
a huge UCUP turn out!
Jim Cash





From The Pastor

When a few of us were planning what to offer for our Lenten Study, we thought about doing a series on White Privilege, but decided that we needed a longer time for this study than the five Wednesdays of Lent would offer. Sadly, events in our nation these past weeks have indicated that, it is even more relevant now. As people of faith, we need to educate ourselves and become even more aware of the privilege we carry as a predominantly white congregation, as well as some actions we can take to bring about the justice and kin-dom of God in our place and time. Throughout this fall, we will gather on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. starting on September 14th and going into November. Please read below for an article from the national United Church of Christ.

In an exceptional show of solidarity, theologians and spiritual leaders of the UCC's seven seminaries and their colleagues are uniting as signatories on this call to action, denouncing "the profound moral evil of white supremacy" and urging all Christians to make concrete change to end the benefit of white privilege.

As theological educators related to the United Church of Christ, we are united in the declaration that we reject white supremacy as a profound moral evil. White supremacy is an offense to God who created all human beings in God's image. As teachers of current and future clergy, we recognize the sacred responsibility we have to create space for holy listening, engagement, and instruction while also holding firmly to the fundamental dignity and equality of every human person. We call on our alumni/ae, faculty, staff and friends to stand with us in affirming, through our teaching, preaching, and public witness, a testimony to the beauty and intrinsic value of every person. We strongly reject the sinful advocacy for and ideology of white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia. These do violence to God's will for the whole human family, deny the ministry and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth and threaten the common good.

As people of faith we humbly, and yet with conviction, offer the following statement: As a denomination that embodies an ecumenical witness and interreligious engagement, the United Church of Christ joins the human freedom movement that has prophetically led the public witness in our nation's history against all forms of white supremacist domination. This movement has worked on many intersecting fronts through our nation's history - abolition, indigenous rights, women's rights, civil rights, LGBTQI rights, and now takes shape in the vision of Black Lives Matter. In our hearing, the call of Black Lives Matter is at once a confession of our nation's sin of racism -- still entrenched in vicious disparities in all our systems of economy, healthcare, education, and criminal justice -- and an affirmation of faith in what we see as the yet unrealized potential of this nation, as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "to live out the true meaning of its creed." In the contemporary call of Black Lives Matter we hear lament and hope, and these truths summon and ground us anew to be about the work of freedom, represented by our liberating God.

Currently we name and decry efforts to demonize and criminalize Black Lives Matter as a part of the historic strategies of white supremacy, and we commit to listen to and engage with Black Lives Matter leaders who are prodding our nation's conscience to face the deadly forces of racism and white supremacy at work in our society, communities, churches, and lives. We commit to doing what we can to marshal the resources of our faith, religious institutions, and

Continued.....

tradition to further their cause of racial justice through loving engagement.[2]



We commit to this work in solidarity with and on behalf of people of color, Jewish people, Muslim people, immigrant people, LGBTQI people and all who are made vulnerable by the rhetoric and actions within the current political climate. As people who follow Jesus, we join our bodies, voices, and spirits with those who demand justice for the oppressed and transformation for our society. As people who follow Jesus, we do this -- as many have before -- knowing the cost and trusting in God.

The United Church of Christ has been a Just Peace Church for more than 30 years.[3] We recognize that the practice of confession, repentance and change, one of its peace and justice practices, is especially relevant to this urgent call for the whole nation to confront and reject white supremacy.

As representatives of the institutions of theological education, we must acknowledge that we have corporately benefited from the economic, social, political and yes, religious advantages conferred by America's "Anglo-Saxon" myth of white superiority, as Dean Kelly Brown Douglas of Episcopal Divinity School at Union has pointed out. [4] We recognize that this is unearned privilege, bought through the exploitation of others, and work to do the necessary work of change to divest of these privileges in our institutional life and teaching.

We call on all institutions that have also benefited from white privilege, and they are the majority in this nation, but especially those who claim the name of Christian, to confess their own complicity in the national history of racism, repent of this, and make concrete change.

It is our conviction that this nation is worth saving and is imperiled by the vile actions of those who will deny others their right to be free citizens. Sound confessional examination of our nation's history is not only prophetic, it is patriotic. The public square in which we all find our identity and express our humanity is sacred and must be protected and must remain free of spectacles of violence, especially the violence of racism, xenophobia and bigotry.

What we saw on display in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11 and 12, 2017 was a hatred unworthy of our nation and an assault on the sanctity of our common life. The challenge for theological educators who form citizens for the public and religious life is to persistently question how the idea of nation—which belongs to us all, can be used as a weapon to divide and fragment the people of God and our fellow citizens of goodwill. While our nation is by no means perfect, it is our conviction that it can be a great power for good in the world. That also means that it can be a powerful force for inflicting harm and suffering. We choose to fight for the former.

As theological educators we know well the history of religion being brought to the service of evil. We are also well acquainted with the calls to leave the public life to the forces of politics and culture. It is this knowledge and these memories which, as with our ancestors, bring us into the public square to bear witness to the power of religion to make this a better nation in which all God's children might flourish. As did the abolitionists, the Civil Rights Movement, and the LGBTQ Movement or indeed any movement on behalf of those fragmented and displaced in the nation, before us we bring our religion to the public square not as power of coercion and death, but rather as a power of hope. Knowing the power of education to create new imaginations in which good is more powerful than evil and in which our society is broader and not smaller, we dedicate ourselves to the work of saving this nation in these dark hours. This is not work we do alone but with all people of goodwill who believe this nation has a place for us all.

From The President



I have missed so many Sundays because I have been away: first, a trip to Hawaii to help my father-in-law, then a family retreat to Lopez Island, and then a three week road trip to Michigan in Larissa and Duff's van to celebrate Ernest and Natalie's wedding. I enjoyed the road by myself, then picked up family members at O'Hare Airport, and we continued to Michigan. The new sight I saw was Devil's Tower. I am very happy to be back and know the church thrived in my absence. I look forward to the fall when we celebrate our Homecoming on September 17.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown



September 23rd - Fourth Sunday Forum at 11:30 a.m.

The Peace & Justice Committee will be hosting a Forum on Veterans & homelessness in Pierce County, with facilitators Christine Crossley & Kathleen Kenna. We anticipate having a guest speaker from Family Housing Network as well as a Veteran address the issue. This will be a follow-up from the forum led by Christine & Dawn Foreman in July.

August 5th - Days for Girls sews, surges, irons, pins, bastes and cuts their way to a goal of 600 kits by November!



Awesome
Volunteers



Happy Sewing

JOIN US!



Days For Girls



The Next session for Days For Girls in the UCUP youth wing is Saturday, September 16th from 10am to 2pm. Thanks to all who donated material or joined us! Saturday.

Worship in September—Come to the Table

"Love one another with mutual affection; Contribute to the needs of the saints; Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you. Live in harmony with one another. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." — Romans 12: 9-21

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." - Matthew 18: 20



We will celebrate the next five weeks in worship with a theme of hospitality at "The Table". There are many images of gathering around the table, whether it be the communion table, the dinner table, or a gathering around a peace table. Jesus' offered a lesson at the Last Supper - that the meal of the kin-dom of God is for all. The table was the place where he not only fed people, but challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God's way. Saint, strangers, those who persecute and betray you, those who are joyful and those who weep. us and invites us to do as Jesus did. This is an invitation to follow God's way in offering a good meal at God's table for all of God's guests.

In his book, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about "The Fellowship of the Table": *Ever since Jesus sat at table with his disciples, the table fellowship of his community has been blessed by the presence of Christ. "And it came to pass, as he sat at meal with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him" (Luke 24:30-31) Jesus as the bread of life is not only the giver but the gift itself. Christians, in their joy in the good gifts of this physical life, acknowledge God as the true giver of all good gifts; Christ as the Bread of life; and as the One who is calling us to the banquet of the Kingdom of God. The fellowship of the table has a festive quality. We labor, but God nourishes and sustains us. And this is reason for celebrating. We "should not eat the bread of sorrows" (Ps. 127:2), but rather "eat bread with joy" (Ecc. 9:7); "So I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and be merry, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun." (8:15). Table fellowship of Christians implies sharing. It is our daily bread that we eat, not our own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. "For the Lord is meeting us in the hungry" (Mt. 25:37). "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?" (James 2:15). So long as we eat our bread together we shall have sufficient even with the least. The fellowship of the table teaches Christians that here they still eat the perishable bread of the earthly pilgrimage. One day we shall receive the imperishable bread together in the house of God. "Blessed are they that shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God" (Luke 14:15)*

We will experience Table Fellowship through music, through celebrating Holy Communion on 9/3 & 10/1, and through feasting together for our Homecoming Potluck on 9/17. Come to worship and join in The Feast..



Joys & Concerns



It was a dark and stormy night, NO it was a bright sunny morning...and so we gathered in Curran Orchard for our annual Blessing of the Animals service. Forty some people, nine dogs and I think Meredith and Anwen Young had 2 cats...no feathered birds or horses this year. Afterwards most of us stayed for a potluck in the church Fellowship Hall, Robert Brown working at the grills, assisted by Neva Laurie-Berry. Wes, we really missed you!

The whole Brown clan traveled to Horton Bay, Michigan for the wedding of Robert and Kathi's foster son, Ernest Hartwell, and Natalie Ramiray. Both Ernest and Natalie are working on advance degrees at Harvard. Sister, Penny Hartwell, is in her third year of a residency in Long Island...Newly engaged: Cierra Gillard and Jordan Campbell, no wedding date yet...What's with this 'going east'? Kyli Gillard recent moved from Texas to work in an architecture firm in Washington, D. C.

We're sorry to report the recent death of Judy Bjarke Williams. Judy, mother of Nancy Rickert and sister-in-law of Win Bjarke, was 101 at the time of her death...we also received word of the death of Marilyn Buck, last year on July 27. Marilyn was a long time friend of ours and a member of the Brown Boppers before health programs cause her to move to Oregon to be nearer to family.

In June we received 38 boxes of cereal, 54 cans of tuna in July...so far this month we have received 68 bars of bath soap, the item of the month for My Sister's Pantry - stay tuned to see if we can increase that number in September.



**MY SISTER'S PANTRY
THE ITEM OF THE MONTH
PEANUT BUTTER**



Bell Bill...Paid In Full!

UCUPers, you are awesome. Nel's Bells have been totally paid in full, thanks to your generosity and caring. This leaves UCUP's budget available for other needs that come up. Blessings and thanks to all! Pastor Cathy & the Choir and Bell Ringers!

August 2017	2 Robert Brown 8 Vic Bode 10 Michael Davis 11 Roger King 12 Elizabeth Gregg 14 Ellen Davis 19 Jenny Hartley 21 Doris Larsen Kris Schrantz Larissa Brown Weber 22 Marilyn Thompson
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Blessing of the Animals

Fifty folks, 10 dogs and 8 cats gathered in the Curran Apple Orchard for our annual Blessing of the Animals, followed by a Picnic at the church. Animals were given a certificate of blessing. Many thanks to those who helped set up and take down chairs and music equipment - especially Robert Brown & Don Morgan; a thank you to our blessers - Rev. Dr. Leslie Ann Knight & Rev. Angela Wolle; and to Joyce Demarest & Robert Brown and all those who brought food for making our picnic a tasty success.



DOGS



C
A
T
S



ALL GOD'S
CREATURES



Family Housing Network

UCUP will shelter families seeking to get back on their feet through the Family Housing Network Sept. 30 through Oct. 6, which means signup sheets will appear soon for volunteers able to help set up and tear down partitions in our fellowship hall and provide food and other kitchen supplies, evening meals and hosting.

Our custom has been to set up our partitions in the fellowship hall on the Friday evening before the families arrive, but a scheduling conflict necessitates a change this time. We'll need a crew to do the partition setup after worship on Sunday Sept. 24, and then again on Saturday morning Sept. 30 when the beds arrive.

Our longtime partners at Mt. Cross Lutheran will continue to provide meals and evening hosting in our building for three evenings during that week, but the big news there is their first-time sheltering the families at their church the previous week.

Mt. Cross coordinator Natalie Findlay, says she doesn't expect to need much help providing evening meals, but likely could use some assistance with evening hosting, setting up the dining area for evening meals, and cleanup afterwards.

Family Housing Network is a long-time mission of our church, and between our having lost some stalwart volunteers to relocation, and having at least a couple more out of town during that period, it's an excellent opportunity for new people to get involved. Contact Tom Milligan or Kathleen Kenna with any questions you might have.

Submitted by
Tom Milligan

At our last Church group dinner we had special guests, maybe a better word would be special friends. Brother Pasha and Kadir visited us for dinner. We had good food, drink, conversation and fellowship. It was a wonderful evening and if more could do this, we might have a better world.

Submitted by Bob & Pat Rudolph



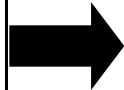
Medical Assistive Devices - Item Request

With support from the UCUP Board on July 10th, plans are now underway to solicit medical assistive devices that will be made available for members, friends and family use on an as-needed, first come first serve basis. Often times there is an insurance coverage gap and/or co-pays that are burdensome. Nearly 24/7 availability will allow for easy access to commonly used devices.

Needed: quad cane, crutches - adult and child, walker, wheel chair, bedside commode and an elevated toilet seat. Storage is planned in the closet in the youth wing stairwell. The full proposal endorsed by the board can be obtained by contacting Judy Thierry at jthierry84@gmail.com or [240-994-8572](tel:240-994-8572). Further details to follow on access, sign-out, etc..

September 2017

Every Sunday – 10am Worship Service
10:15am Elementary & Youth Sunday School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	LABOR DAY 			BACK TO SCHOOL 	1	2 
3	4 <u>Labor Day</u> 10am-3pm Needlers— Orchard View Room 5pm SPR	5 10am Cong. Care Mtg. 1pm ALZ Support Group	6 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 6:30pm Finance Mtg.	7 7:30-9pm Choir Practice	8 	9
10 11:30am P&J Mtg.	11 6:30pm Board Mtg. 	12	13 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	14 6-7:30pm Gathering 7:30-9pm Choir Practice	15 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	16 10am-2pm Days for Girls in Youth Wing
17 Homecoming Sunday & Potluck Choir sings in Worship	18	19 	20 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	21 6-7:30pm Gathering 7:30-9pm Choir Practice	22 	23 
24 4th Sunday Forum Topic: Veterans & Homelessness	25	26 	27 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	28 6-7:30pm Gathering 7:30-9pm Choir Practice UCC Annual Mtg	29 	30 FHN Families Arrive & Stay thru Oct. 7th



Church Contact

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**United Church In
University Place**
3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA
98466



Weekly
Sundays
10am Worship Service
With Rev. Cathlynn Law
10:15am Elementary Sunday
School (4yrs to 11yrs)
10:15am Youth Sunday School
(12yrs & Up)

Wednesdays
Noon-2pm Brown Baggers
Luncheon & Bible Study Group

Thursdays
7:30pm-9pm Choir Practice
(Sept—May)

Monthly
1st Sunday of the month
Communion during worship
1st Monday of the month
10am-3pm Needler's Craft Group
1st Tuesday of the month
1pm Alzheimer's Support Group
3rd Friday of the month
6:30pm P,B & Jam Night
Bring your instruments!
4th Sunday of the month
11:45am 4th Sunday Forum

**We are United with God,
United to Love,
and United to Serve Others**